



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 23-1087, **Version:** 1

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Library Department recommending the Board approve and authorize the Chair to sign Amendment I to Agreement 6735 with Columbia Telecommunications Corporation, the statewide broadband access administrator for the California State Library Broadband Services Project. Amendment I to Agreement 6735 renews high-speed broadband internet service at the Georgetown Library to 7/1/2028. The estimated total for the first year is \$62,000 (\$ 27,000 after estimated E-rate discounts).

**FUNDING:** 48% General Fund, 52% Library Special Revenue Funds and Library fees.

### **DISCUSSION / BACKGROUND**

Library Department contracts with Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC), the statewide broadband access administrator for the California State Library Broadband Services Project. Amendment I to Agreement 6735 renews high-speed broadband internet service at the Georgetown Library to 7/1/2028.

The internet equipment needs to be replaced and costs \$19,584.51. The library is applying for grants to cover the equipment cost and will return to the Board to accept if they are successful. Annual costs for internet services at all libraries is \$41,768.74 (\$7,113.70 after the estimated E-rate discount).

The Library had been selected to continue to participate in the state-subsidized, high-speed broadband program entitled the California Public Library Broadband Project. This program is being managed by Columbia Telecommunications Corporation dba CTC Technology and Energy, funded partially by the California State Library. CTC, on behalf of the California State Library, has contracted with the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) and its subsidiaries to provide high speed networking to libraries in California. CTC, acting as the administrative arm of the California State Library for this project, develops contracts with participating libraries for data circuits and use of the CalREN high-capacity fiber optic network. CTC is the new Statewide Broadband Access Administrator for the California State Library Broadband Services Project, replacing Califa Group to negotiate discount rates for technology purchases on behalf of member libraries, and manage statewide projects on behalf of the California State Library.

In 2014 the California State Legislature approved funding for a three-year project to connect California public libraries to the California Research and Education Network, CalREN. CalREN is a high-capacity fiber optic network operated by the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC). CalREN has over 20 million users, including the majority of K-12 schools, community colleges, and California universities. In addition to connecting libraries to CalREN, the State Legislature also approved \$4 million for grants to purchase equipment needed for important upgrades to library infrastructure. Working with CENIC and Califa (a library non-profit), the El Dorado County Library had the opportunity to upgrade and become a key resource for researchers, business people, students, and entrepreneurs.

CENIC benefits its partners because of its bargaining power across the state. It is able to negotiate favorable contracts with Internet Service Providers as well as hardware providers. CENIC also

benefits the County through its ability to file for federal E-rate discounts for libraries as a California Library Consortium. All libraries are currently receiving these discounts without having to go through the complicated process of filing themselves. E-rate discounts significantly reduce the cost of providing internet service to libraries across the County.

On February 23, 2016, the Board approved Agreement #345-S1611 with Califa Group to connect all six libraries to the education network CalREN, managed by CENIC as part of the state-subsidized, high-speed broadband program entitled the California Public Library Broadband Project.

On May 17, 2016, the Board accepted a \$30,000 grant from the State Library for networking equipment and approved Agreement # 468-F1611 with Southern California Library Cooperative for the purchase of Cisco routers and firewalls. The actual cost of the equipment was \$35,389, and the Library reported that the additional cost would be absorbed by one-time salary savings.

On October 25, 2016, the Board approved Amendment I to Agreement 345-S1611 with Califa Group to provide a no-cost circuit at the Placerville Library and to drop the Georgetown circuit due to the withdrawal of the Comcast bid.

On November 15, 2016, the Board accepted a \$60,000 grant award from the State Library to allow the Library to purchase racks, wire management, power protection, switches, and to pay the CENIC fee for routers at three libraries. The Board also accepted a \$5,000 grant award from NorthNet Library System allowing the Library to offset the \$5,389 charge for equipment that exceeded the \$30,000 award in Agreement #468-F1611 with the Southern California Library Cooperative.

On February 28, 2017, the Board approved Amendment II to Agreement 345-S1611 with Califa Group, replacing Appendix #1A with Appendix #1B, to add the Georgetown Library back into the original agreement due to a new bid from AT&T.

On September 13, 2022, the Board approved Agreement #6735. Under this agreement CTC provides high-speed Internet services using the CalREN network and pricing that has been negotiated by CENIC with the telecommunications providers. The annual undiscounted cost for all six library branches is approximately \$43,666.80; however, CTC will apply for federal E-rate discounts and California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) discounts on the Library's behalf that will be applied after June 30 each year. CENIC has estimated the discounts for El Dorado County at approximately \$40,000 per year, resulting in a net cost of approximately \$4,366.68 per year. As the numbers are estimates, the Library requested that the Board approve the agreement for \$45,000, \$4,500 after e-rate discounts, in case there was a variance between the estimates provided and actual invoices provided.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

If the Board declines to approve Amendment I to Agreement 6735, the Georgetown Library will lose the E-rate discount for the library and will incur additional costs of approximately \$10,000 per year, which is not currently included in the Library budget request for FY23/24.

## **PRIOR BOARD ACTION**

The Board approved Agreement 6735 with Columbia Telecommunications Corporation on 9/13/2023, item 15, Legistar item 22-1090.

**OTHER DEPARTMENT / AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

Library staff worked closely with County Information Technologies to set up the broadband program.

**CAO RECOMMENDATION / COMMENTS**

Approve as recommended.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no change to Net County Cost. The cost of the agreement has been included in the Library's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget request.

**CLERK OF THE BOARD FOLLOW UP ACTIONS**

1. Clerk of the Board to obtain the Chair's signature and two (2) of originals of Amendment 1.
2. Clerk of the Board to return one (1) fully executed Amendment 1 to the Library Department.

**STRATEGIC PLAN COMPONENT**

Healthy Communities, Infrastructure, Good Governance, Economic Development

**CONTACT**

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